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Viewing cable 05NEWDELHI9527, THE TRIBAL BILL - A UPA ATTEMPT AT SOCIAL

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#05NEWDELHI9527**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
05NEWDELHI9527	2005-12-20 10:04	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy New Delhi

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/the-india-cables/article156519.ece>

VZCZCXRO0880
RR RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHLH RUEHPW
DE RUEHNE #9527/01 3541004
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 201004Z DEC 05
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7636
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 9312
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 2424
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 2445
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 5277
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 2142
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 3080
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 7424
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 5796
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2490
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 0396
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 0034
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 1319
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE 1851
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 9304
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 2544
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0284
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RHHJJPI/PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI
RHMFISS/HQ USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 05 NEW DELHI 009527

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/20/2015
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PHUM](#) [KCRM](#) [ASEC](#) [SCUL](#) [SENV](#) [KSCA](#) [TSPL](#)
EAGR, IN
SUBJECT: THE TRIBAL BILL - A UPA ATTEMPT AT SOCIAL
ENGINEERING

REF: A. NEW DELHI 9245
[B](#). NEW DELHI 5068 C. NEW DELHI 4953 D. NEW DELHI 4759 E. NEW DELHI 4673

Classified By: Charge Robert Blake, Jr. for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

[1](#). (C) Summary: India's forest dwelling tribals (aboriginals largely residing in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh Andhra Pradesh) are seeking a Far-Reaching Bill

[2](#). (U) On December 13, Tribal Affairs Minister PR Kyndiah introduced the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill to Parliament. With Extensive Rights

[3](#). (U) The Bill is an ambitious attempt at social engineering which aims to provide clear rights to STs, while seeking to preserve India's forest resources and Clear Obligations

[4](#). (U) In exchange for these rights, the ST-held land would be confined to "bonafide livelihood purposes" and "not for exclusive commercial purposes." The Political Genesis of the Bill

[5](#). (C) Conservationists claim the bill's hidden agenda is to capture the hitherto unaligned tribals' votes for Congress. Environmental lawyers warn Nothing to Lose Here for the Congress-Led Coalition

[6](#). (C) The UPA has embraced the bill as a win-win situation, noting that if the bill gets through, tribals will align themselves with the ruling government. The Prime Minister Pushed to the Fore

[7](#). (SBU) Prime Minister Singh is actively pressing for passage of the Tribal Bill. As head of the National Board for Wildlife, he became deeply involved in the tiger issue (reftels B-E) and formed

Opponents are Appalled

¶8. (U) The Bill was drafted by a "Technical Support Group" of tribal activists recruited by the Tribal Ministry. The Ministry of Forests &

¶9. (U) Indian conservatives also opposed the Bill, arguing that it would impede India's economic development. A "Pioneer" editorial argued

Proponents are Enthusiastic

¶10. (U) The Bill is the project of "tribal activists" and Left ideologues from the UPA and Left Front (LF). They argue that it corrects a

¶11. (C) Opponents contend that the drafters failed to study
NEW DELHI 00009527 004 OF 005 the effect of similar programs in Brazil and Central Africa that encouraged slash-and-burn farming by subsister

Naxalites in the Background

¶12. (C) The Naxalites are the unmentioned third player in the argument. The Communist Party of India (Maoist) and other Naxalite groups are

¶13. (C) Many liberal ideologues in the UPA support the Bill out of concern for the environment and the STs. It also appeals to the Congress

Comment - Tribals Caught in a Vise

¶14. (C) The tribals who inhabit forest areas have been traditionally exploited and abused by the majority population. India's rapidly expand

¶15. (C) The GOI's unwillingness and inability to make the difficult decisions required to prevent destruction of the forests and end the expl

¶16. (U) Visit New Delhi's Classified Website: (<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/sa/newdelhi/>)

BLAKE.